



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

DR
218
58

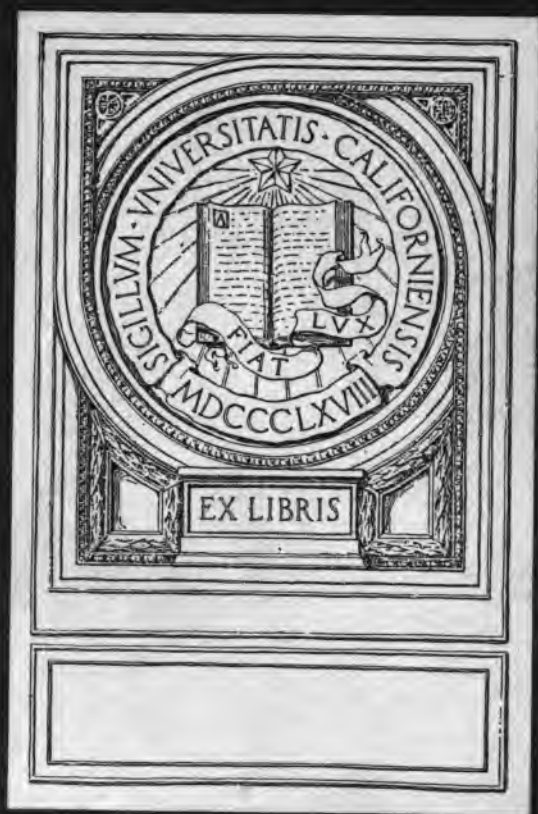


UC-NRLF



5B 304 316

YB 46315



JUL 26 1921



THE ROUMANIANS AND
THEIR LANDS

EDITED BY PROFESSOR VASILE STOICA

GIFT

JUL 26 1921

II.

THE
ROUMANIAN NATION
AND
THE
ROUMANIAN KINGDOM

MAN ZOLMAN MM

URGH PRINTING COMPANY

Publishers

Pittsburgh

Digitized by Google

To Will
Anderson

**THE ROUMANIAN NATION
AND
THE ROUMANIAN KINGDOM**

THE ROUMANIANS AND THEIR LANDS

Edited by **PROFESSOR VASILE STOICA**

II.

THE ROUMANIAN NATION AND THE ROUMANIAN KINGDOM

PITTSBURGH, PA.

PITTSBURGH PRINTING COMPANY
Publishers

ALPHABETIC
IR 218
S8

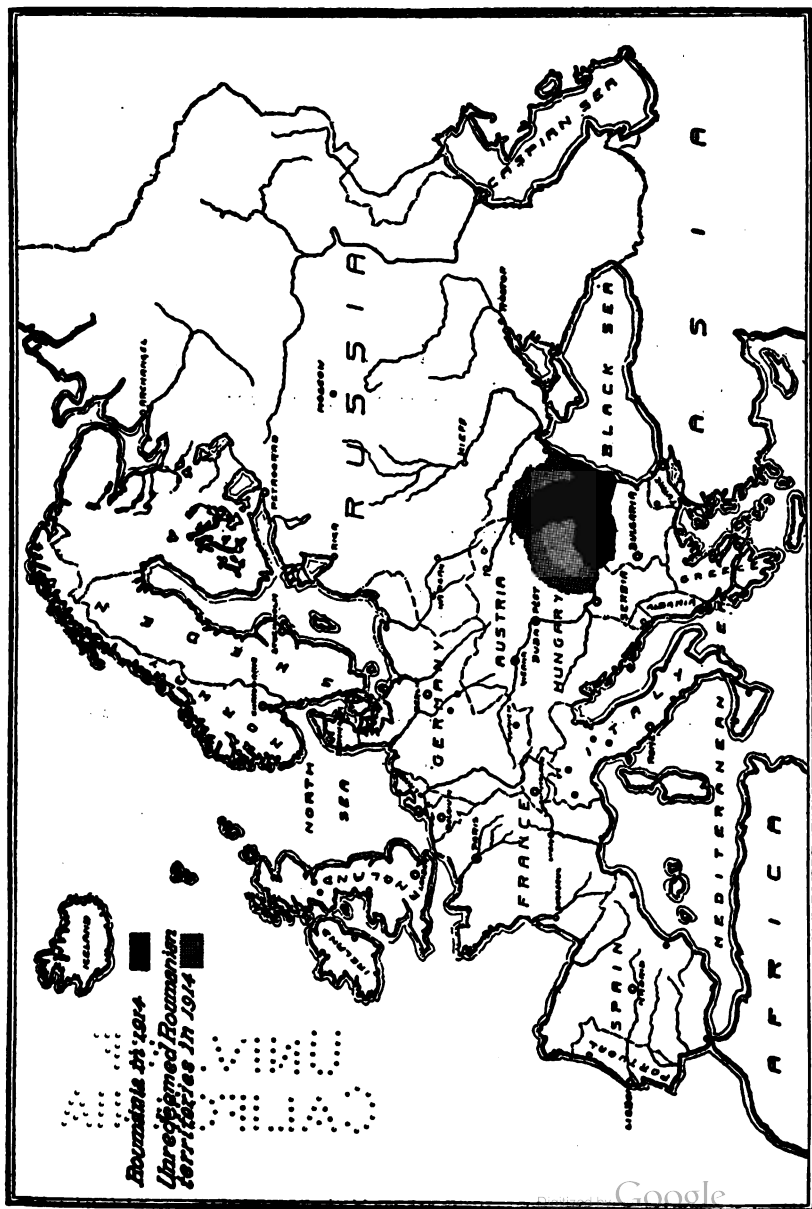
Copyright, 1919
By Vasile Stoica

COPIES CAN BE OBTAINED
FROM THE
ROUMANIAN RELIEF COMMITTEE OF AMERICA
43 CEDAR STREET
NEW YORK

Printed in the United States of America

CONTENTS

	Page
I	
THE ROUMANIAN TERRITORY.....	7
II	
ORIGIN AND MEDIEVAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROUMANIANS	10
III	
WALLACHIA AND MOLDAVIA	16
IV	
ROUMANIA	27
V	
PROGRESS OF MODERN ROUMANIA	32
VI	
ROUMANIA'S WAR.....	38



THE ROUMANIANS AND THEIR LANDS

II

THE ROUMANIAN NATION AND THE ROUMANIAN KINGDOM

I. The Roumanian Territory.

People in Western Europe and in America usually take the word "Roumanians" to mean only the inhabitants of Roumania proper. Roumanian citizenship was always confused with the Roumanian race. They believed that all who speak and feel Roumanian were comprised within the boundaries of the Kingdom. The facts, however, were entirely different. The Kingdom of Roumania, prior to 1914, held only half of the Roumanian race. All the provinces surrounding the Kingdom were Roumanian provinces, inhabited by Roumanians, but subjected to foreign oppressive powers. The ethnical and national Roumanian territory in South-Eastern Europe is the land stretching from the Dniester West over Transylvania up to the proximity of the River Tisa, and South down to the Danube, crossing its lower

THE ROUMANIAN NATION AND

course and extending to the shores of the Black Sea. There are also important islands of Roumanian population in the Balkans, in Macedonia, Thessaly, as well as beyond the Dniester in the Ukraine. The total number of Roumanians is about 15,000,000 souls. The Roumanian provinces are:

1. **The Roumanian Kingdom** prior to 1914, bound in the North and West by the Southern chain of the Carpathians, the so-called Transylvanian Alps; in the East by the River Pruth, in the South by the Danube and the hills which stretch South-East from Silistria to the Black Sea; an area of 53,668 square miles, comprising a population of almost 8,000,000 inhabitants, of whom about 7,500,000 are Roumanians.

2. **Transylvania** (with the adjoining country) and **the Banat**, comprising the Transylvanian Plateau between the Eastern Carpathians, the Transylvanian Alps, and the Metal Mountains, the territory to the North up to the Tisa River and to the West up to the junction of the three Crishes (Koeroes), as well as all the territory between the Muresh, the Tisa and the Danube; an area of 46,332 square miles, with 5,000,000 inhabitants, of whom 3,800,000 are of Roumanian race.

3. **Bucovina**, lying North of the Roumanian Kingdom, comprising the territory between the Roumanian border, the line of hills

THE ROUMANIAN KINGDOM

which run from west of Hotin southwesterly, and the Cheremush River nearly up to its source, an area of 4,028 square miles inhabited by about 300,000 Roumanians.

4. **Bessarabia**, laying between the Pruth, Dniester and the Black Sea; an area with a population of 3,000,000 souls, among whom about 2,000,000 are Roumanians. There are also over 600,000 Roumanians on the left bank of the Dniester in Ukraine.

5. **The Timok and Morava Valleys** in Serbia, which comprise the territory formed by the turn of the Danube before Orshova and Turnu Severin continuing and crossing the Bulgarian border, an area of 2,600 square miles with about 274,000 Roumanians.

6. **Macedonia**, where under Serbian and Greek rule there are dispersed over 500,000 Roumanians.

Thus being a people numbering over 15,000,000 souls, the Roumanian nation is greater in number than the populations of Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Holland combined. To be united under one body politic was their supreme aim all through the past centuries. It is for this great cause that Roumania made the great sacrifices and suffered the painful tragedy of 1916-1918, which is well known to the whole world.

THE ROUMANIAN NATION AND

II. Origin and Mediaeval Development of the Roumanians.

The Roumanian people by language, temperament and physical type, belong to the Latin group of peoples of Europe, thus being kindred to the Italian, French, Spanish and Portuguese. They are very closely related to the Italians. Although in the course of their history, especially between the years 300-1000, different other races, the Slavic especially, have influenced their development, their Latin character has remained unalterably preserved. The Roumanian language, like the other modern Neo-Latin languages derived from popular Latin is so near to the Italian that any man who understands Roumanian will understand Italian and even Spanish without having studied these languages. The type of the cranium is brachycephale. The temperament is emotional. The mind clothed with a mantle of mysticism, which came from the relation with the Slavs and Byzantines, has all the clearness of the Latin genius. This explains why, under grave circumstances during the war of 1914-1918, the Roumanian people have taken the part of their Latin brothers and why, in spite of all the mingling of the Russian Army with that of Roumania on the Roumanian front, and in spite of all the Bolshevik propaganda, the Roumanian Army and the Roumanian people remained untouched by Russian disease.

THE ROUMANIAN KINGDOM

The birth of the Roumanian nation dates back to A. D. 101-105, when the Roman legions led by **Emperor Trajan** in two wars conquered Dacia definitely. Dacia at that time covered all the territory bound in the East by the Dniester, in the West by the Tisa and in the South by the Danube, having in the center as a powerful fortress the plateau surrounded by the mountain walls of Transylvania, where was also the city of Sarmisegetusa, the capital of the land. The Dacian King Decebal, when conquered, committed suicide, and so did also many of the nobles who were with him. The country then was turned into a Roman province. Trajan brought colonists from Italy and from other parts of the Empire, and thus in the healthy body of the Dacians, who were the brothers of the Thracians, was inoculated the Roman blood and culture which in less than two centuries formed the nucleus and principal dough from which the Roumanian race was kneaded. The romanization of Dacia, however, had begun even before its invasion. After the conquest Dacia became one of the most flourishing provinces of the Empire. Roads were built which are still in use to this very day. Cities sprang up: Ulpia, Traiana (formerly Sarmisegetusa), Apulum, Potaissa, Napoca, etc. Romanization reached a complete success especially in Transylvania, in the Banat of today, as well as in Oltenia (the Western part of the Roumanian Kingdom),

THE ROUMANIAN NATION AND

and since that time also began to spread Christianity.

In the IIIrd century A. D. began the invasion of the barbarian peoples toward Rome and Byzantium. Roman life was retreating gradually from the plains of the Dniester, Pruth, and the Danube to the mountains of Transylvania. Emperor Aurelian in 271 A. D. withdrew the Roman legions from Dacia, passing them on the right bank of the Danube in order to defend Moesia and the roads leading South. The parts of the Empire on the left bank of the Danube were swallowed up by the flood of the invaders. First came the Goths, who conquered the plains of Moldavia and of Wallachia (271-375). The Huns followed them (375-453), then came the Gepidae (453-566) and the Avars (566-799). All these were predatory tribes with equestrian armies. They preferred the plains and avoided always the mountain districts unfavorable to their manner of life.

The Roman population, abandoned by the Legions, retreated to the Transylvanian Mountains and there defended themselves with obstinacy. Transylvania was at that time like a rock around which are boiling the waters in the wild rapids of a mighty river.

Pushed by the barbarians, in the VIth and VIIth centuries Slav peoples penetrated through the plains between the Danube and Tisa southward into the Balkan Peninsula and

THE ROUMANIAN KINGDOM

broke the communication of Dacia with the rest of the Western Roman world. The Romans—or Roumanians thenceforth—organized themselves in small states along the valleys, remaining in touch with the Latin elements of the Balkans, the remnants of which are today the Roumanians in Macedonia, Albania and Thessaly. Their organization achieved power, especially so as between 799-900 no incursion of note took place.

About 890-900 a new barbarian race of Mongolian origin pass the northern Carpathians and occupy the plains of the Tisa and the Danube: the Hungarians. But when they attempt to pass the Tisa and to penetrate eastward into Transylvania, they are met by the Roumanians with invincible resistance. In Transylvania there is the Roumanian principality of Gelu, in the Banat that of Glad, and in the Crish Districts that of Menmoroth. After many struggles and prolonged parleys of nearly 100 years the Hungarians succeed in reaching an understanding with the Transylvanian inhabitants. The country accepts the suzerainty of the Hungarian King, probably still under Stephen the Saint (995-1038), but the Transylvanians are guaranteed full liberty and full autonomy.

Rights were respected for some time. In the XIIth century, however, religious persecution began by the Catholic Kings of Hungary against the Roumanians who held on to their

THE ROUMANIAN NATION AND

Greek Orthodox faith; thence oppression followed in order to break entirely the independence of the Roumanians. This is why in 1290 many Roumanian noblemen from Transylvania, especially from the Duchy of Fagarash, leave Transylvania, cross the Carpathians southward and, uniting the small Roumanian Duchies south of these mountains, establish the **Principality of Wallachia**, **Basarab the Ist**, Prince of Wallachia (1301-1330) defeats completely the Hungarian King Charles Robert in 1330 and wins thereby full independence for the country.

At the same time other Roumanian noblemen from the Duchy of Maramuresh in Northern Transylvania cross the Mountains eastward and establish the **Moldavian Principality**. The Moldavian Prince **Bogdan** (1359-1365) fights successfully several times the armies of the Hungarian King Louis the Great (1342-82) and also wins full independence for Moldavia.

Thus at the end of the XIIIth and at the beginning of the XIVth century the Roumanian people, who up to this time were united, are divided into three principalities:

1. Autonomous Transylvania, under the suzerainty of the Hungarian Kings,
2. Wallachia, and
3. Moldavia.

THE ROUMANIAN KINGDOM

At the beginning of the XIVth century, the Roumanians grouped in the three principalities covered exactly the territory of Dacia Traiana. Their fate, from a political standpoint, was divided. The consciousness of their Latin origin and racial unity, however, was never lost. Religious and cultural bonds strengthened that conscience. All Roumanians are even today of the same religion and speak exactly the same language without any dialectical difference. The Roumanian of the Banat of today, formerly a subject of Hungary, speaks the same language and understands it exactly like the one near the Dniester, who is a former Russian subject. This is why this nation had always a tendency to unite into one body politic. In the XVth and XVIth centuries whole regions of Transylvania were annexed to either Moldavia or Wallachia; some very important fortresses even in the interior of the country were in charge of the rulers of the two principalities. Under Michel the Brave (1593-1601) the three principalities were united for a short time under one Prince. The desire of the Roumanians to unite, especially from 1600 down, could not, however, be realized on account of the adverse interests of their neighbors: the Turkish, the Austro-Hungarian and the Russian Empires.

Moldavia and Wallachia, which united in 1859 and formed the Kingdom of Roumania, took a great part in the historical development

THE ROUMANIAN NATION AND

of Eastern Europe. But the Roumanians of the Transylvanian Principality, being more and more oppressed by the Hungarian noblemen and by the German colonists, could not play any important part. Transylvania, however, was always the source and cause of refreshing the energy and culture of the two free principalities. From Transylvania came the first founders of Moldavia and Wallachia. From there also passed later in the XIXth century the first thinkers, teachers and scientists. Even today the three greatest poets of the modern Roumanian literature, George Cosbuc, St. O. Josif and Octavian Goga, are Transylvanians who found in Roumania a refuge from Hungarian persecution.

III. Wallachia and Moldavia.

Wallachia and Moldavia consolidated very quickly.

Wallachia at the end of the XIVth century comprised all the territory between the Transylvanian Alps and the Danube; then also in Transylvania the Duchy of Fagarash and Amlash, the upper valleys of the two Jiul Rivers, as well as the Dobrudja of today from Silistria to the Sea, the mouths of the Danube and the Southern part of modern Bessarabia, which, however, soon passed under Moldavian rule.

Moldavia comprised the territory between the Eastern Carpathians, the Dniester River and the Black Sea, also Bucovina of today and the Southern part of Galicia, as well as in Transylvania, important places in the Duchy of Maramuresh and in the Bistritz District. Soon it also won from Wallachia the Southern part of Bessarabia of today and thus her boundaries extended South to the lower Danube.

Wallachia has been consolidated and raised to a European political importance especially by her Prince **Mirtcha the Old** (1386-1418). He conquered the Dobrudja of today by defeating the Byzantine vassal, the despot Dobrotitch, and extended the dominion of his country across the Danube to the Black Sea, calling himself "Lord of the Land of Dobrotitch to the Sea and Prince of Silistria." The Turkish peril appeared then for the first time over Europe. Mirtcha allied himself with Serbia and his army fought alongside with the latter in the great battle of Kosovo, in 1389. The battle was lost, but Mirtcha was able to retreat home over the Danube. On the 10th of October, 1394, at Rovine, near Craiova, he defeated completely the armies of Sultan Bayazet Ilderim, who had crossed the Danube to subdue Wallachia. In 1396 Mirtcha allied with the Christian armies and took an important part in the battle of Nicopoli in which, however, the Christian warriors lost. Later Mirtcha was forced to enter relations with the Turks and

THE ROUMANIAN NATION AND

played even an important part in the revolutions against the Sultan, succeeding thereby also to keep almost untouched the independence of his country.

Wallachia at the same time was threatened by the Hungarians and by the Germans. Mirtcha, jointly with the Moldavian Prince, **Petru Mushat** (1375-1391), formed an alliance with the Polish King in 1390, which was later renewed in 1411, when the German emperor, Sigismund became also king of Hungary.

The organization of Moldavia has been completed by **Alexander the Good** (1400-1433). He organized the administration and the Church, encouraged the commerce, brought architects and scientists from Poland and Western Europe. Not being so close to the Turks as Mirtcha, he had no fight with them. According to the treaty of alliance of his country with the Polish kings and with Mirtcha, he sent considerable aid in 1422 to the Poles against the Teuton Knights of Prussia. The Polish-Moldavian army defeated the Teutons at Marienburg, where the Moldavians distinguished themselves considerably.

But the Turks in 1393 had destroyed the Bulgarian Empire and extended their boundaries up to the Danube. They soon snatched from the Roumanians also the Dobrudja, reaching thereby the mouths of the Danube and even the Moldavian border. Mirtcha's successor in Wallachia was forced to acknowl-

THE ROUMANIAN KINGDOM

edge the suzerainty of the Sultan. And although **Vlad the Impaler** (1458-1462) recovered for a short time the independence of the country by defeating the Turks several times, his successors were forced again, to subjugation.

Moldavia was more fortunate. It was not so much in the way of the Turks as Wallachia. In 1457 ascended her throne one of the greatest Princes of the Roumanian race and without doubt one of the greatest heroes of Christendom, **Stephen the Great** (1457-1504). For 47 years this brave man defended the country against all its enemies: the Turks in the South beyond the Danube and on the Sea, the Tartar allies of the Turks in the East beyond the Dniester, the Hungarians in the West and the Poles in the North. On the eve of his death he told his physician, the Venetian Muriano: "Since I have been Prince of this country I fought 36 battles; in 34 I was victorious, 2 I lost, for the Almighty wanted to punish me because of my sins." After defeating the Tartars in 1470 at Lipintzi, he met several plundering groups of the Turkish army and defeated them. In 1475 he had then to meet the most terrific struggle: an army of 120,000 Turks entered the country, and on January 10th, 1475, Stephen destroyed it entirely at Racoa. This was the greatest victory won by Christians over Heathens up to that time.

Stephen asked at once the aid of Christian rulers in order to stem the Turkish flood. "We have conquered them and we have put them under our feet, and with the edge of the sword we have vanquished them, for which God be praised," wrote he to the reigning Princes of Europe. "The infidel Turk sought to get a hold of this gate of Christendom which hinders him at our border. If this gate should be lost by us, all Christendom will be threatened. We promise on our Christian faith, that we shall stand ready to give our lives, and that we shall fight to Death for the cause of Christianity." No one, however, gave him any help. The Hungarian as well as the Polish kings were themselves too eager to lay their hands on Moldavia. Being left to fight by himself, Stephen was defeated in 1476 at Razboieni by an army of 200,000 led personally by Sultan Mohammed II, the conqueror of Constantinople. But he raised new troops in the same year and drove the Turks out from his country across the Danube into Dobrudja. New battles followed with fresh Turkish armies and Stephen won new victories over them. Particularly important were the victories of Catlabuga in 1485 and of Scheia in 1486. The neighboring Christian kings not only failed to aid but also attacked him. Stephen completely defeated Mathews Corvin, the Hungarian king, in 1467, at Baia, and John Albert, the

THE ROUMANIAN KINGDOM

Polish king, in 1497, in the Cosmin forest, near Czernowitz.

Stephen died in 1504, and his successors, owing to the failure of the Christian princes to give them any succor, were compelled to surrender to the Turks.

Thus Wallachia and Moldavia at the beginning of the XVIth century are under Turkish suzerainty. This, however, does not mean their union with the Turkish Empire. The Turks took the engagement to preserve undisturbed the autonomy and undiminished the territory of the Roumanian countries, and not even to permit the establishment of any Musselman in their cities and villages. The princes of Moldavia and Wallachia in their turn had to pay an annual tribute which grew higher and higher every year. But no matter how many misfortunes befell the Roumanian principalities, neither Moldavia, Wallachia nor Transylvania reached that stage of servitude of being transformed into Turkish provinces and ruled by Pashas, as was Hungary from 1526 to 1683. They always preserved at least a shadow of autonomy.

In the XVIth and XVIIth centuries Moldavia and Wallachia reached a state of unparalleled misery. Turkish robbery and vandalism bring the people to the point of despair. Moldavia rises against the Turks under **John the Cruel** (1572-1574). But after a struggle of over two years, John is defeated and killed in

THE ROUMANIAN NATION AND

1574. Needless to say that oppression continued with still more vigor.

A little later, however, Wallachia rises and the battles fought under the leadership of Prince Michel the Brave, are marked as the most brilliant pages of Roumanian history.

Michel the Brave (1593-1601) takes advantage of the circumstances in which Turkey finds herself by being engaged in a great war with the German Emperor, Rudolph the IInd, and clears his country from every vestige of Turkish rule. Turkey suspends the war against Germany and sends against him a powerful army under the command of the Grand Vizier Sinan Pasha. Michel defeats them at Calugareni in 1595 and the rest he annihilates at Giurgiu. But Michel, with his clear view, understands that the Roumanian territory must be united and it must have in the center the mountain fortress of Transylvania for its defense. He therefore in 1599 conquers Transylvania, the Eastern part of the Banat and the neighboring counties, and in the same year he conquers also Moldavia, where he is received as a savior, uniting thereby under his rule all three Roumanian countries. "Prince of Wallachia, Transylvania and Moldavia" is the title Michel adopted.

This union, however, was considered a crime by the German and Hungarian politicians. A conspiracy was framed and the Hungarian

THE ROUMANIAN KINGDOM

nobles and the imperial general Basta murdered him on August 19th, 1601.

Thus the union of the Roumanian Nation into one body lasted only a short while. But from the death of Michel the Brave down, that goal became the ideal of the Roumanian people toward which they strove continually for more than three centuries.

After the demise of Michel the situation in both principalities became still more distressful. Only under **Basil Lupu** (1633-54) in Moldavia, and under **Mathew Bassarab** (1634-43) in Wallachia was reinstated for a short period a kind of law and order.

At the end of the XVIIth century, after the battle of Vienna (1683), Turkish power is weakening and it is the grip of the powerful Russian that begins to be felt. In order to escape Turkish oppression the Roumanian Princes, **Demetrius Cantemir** of Moldavia (1710-11) and **Constantin Brancovanu** of Wallachia (1688-1714) enter into treaty relations with Russia. The Russian Czar, Peter the Great, however, is defeated by the Turks. Demetrius Cantemir then takes refuge in Russia, while Constantin Brancovanu is captured, taken to Constantinople and beheaded together with his three sons and his son-in-law.

From this date on the Turkish Government itself appoints the rulers in the Roumanian principalities, selecting them from among the Greeks of the Phanar, a suburb of Constanti-

THE ROUMANIAN NATION AND

nople, and naturally depending on the highest prices paid for the office. This so called **Phanariot Epoch** (1712-1821) is the saddest epoch in the history of the Roumanian principalities. The Phanariot princes had no other interest in the countries they ruled over than that of placing heavy tribute and extorting the population for their own enrichment, for the benefit of the great number of Greek functionaries whom they brought with them and for the purpose of satisfying the greediness of the different Turkish pashas who were ruling the Ottoman Empire. The system of government of these Phanariots was nothing else than an organized robbery.

At that epoch took place two of the most painful events in the history of the Roumanian Nation.

In 1772 at the partition of Poland Austria took from this unfortunate country the province of Galicia. Three years later, in 1775, by bribing the high Turkish and Russian officials (their names and the sums are very well known), Austria snatched and annexed to her Empire the Northern part of Moldavia, which she called afterwards "Bucovina," together with the old Moldavian capital, Sutchava, and with the grave of Stephen the Great at Putna.

In 1812 by the Treaty of Bucharest between Turkey and Russia, the growing Empire of the Czars, by bribing the two Turkish delegates, Morouzi and Ghalib Bey, tore away half of

THE ROUMANIAN KINGDOM

Moldavia, all the territory between the Pruth, the Dniester River and the Black Sea, renaming it "Bessarabia,"—which former meant only the strip of territory near the mouths of the Danube and the Sea.

But the great French Revolution could not pass without any influence upon the Roumanians. A new national spirit developed at the light of the new ideals. In Transylvania great historians and scientists presented the past and the unity of the Roumanians, their Roman origin and the aim toward which they had to strive. Transylvanian teachers and thinkers came to Bucharest and to Jassy, the capitals of the two principalities, where they met a great number of young boyards penetrated by the enlightened and liberal spirit of the French movement. The dissatisfaction with the Phanariot rule and with the Russian and Austrian tendencies of conquest broke out in an open revolt in 1821, when both in Moldavia and Wallachia the national revolution drove out of the country these Greek servants of the Turkish Governments. In Wallachia especially the revolutionary uprising was very violent and decided. Its leader, **Tudor Vladimirescu**, declared bluntly in his proclamations that: "The Country of the Greeks is Greece; the Roumanian Land (i. e. Wallachia) is the country of the Roumanians."

Under the pressure of events, the Turks ceased to appoint rulers from the Phanar for

THE ROUMANIAN NATION AND

the two Roumanian principalities. From now on they selected them among the Roumanian nobility and these princes of Roumanian blood were those who, together with the young generation, prepared the way for the Union of the two countries into a single state.

The situation of the countries however grew more difficult every day. Their territory became the battlefield of the Russians and Turkish armies, swept over from time to time also by the Austrians. The princes and population were submitted to the vexations of all three invaders, who at the same time made all efforts to crush the rising national consciousness.

It is in this epoch, especially about 1830-1840, that the first important waves of Jews immigrated from Poland and Russia into Moldavia.

In 1848 the Roumanians revolted again against their oppressors in all three Roumanian principalities, in Moldavia, and in Wallachia as well as in Transylvania, demanding a liberal organization and emphasizing openly the unity of the Roumanian race. The Turks invaded Wallachia, the Russians invaded Moldavia and the movement was curbed. In 1853 new revolts sprung up and the Russians anew invaded the Roumanian territory. For all this suffering a spark of consolation has been given to the two principalities when after the Crimean War in 1856 they have been put under

THE ROUMANIAN KINGDOM

the protection of the seven Great Powers assembled at the Paris Congress and the Southern part of Bessarabia has been restored to Moldavia.

IV. Roumania.

As early as the beginning of the XIXth century the Roumanians of the three principalities began to work for the purpose of uniting all Roumanian territories into a single Roumanian State. In 1848-49 they went even so far as to offer Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria that Moldavia, Wallachia and Transylvania be formed into an Austrian state and be a part of the Austrian Empire,—a plan which the court at Vienna did not approve of. The Roumanian tendencies of union were met always with hostility by the Russians as well as by the Austrians and the Turks. In 1856 the two principalities appealed to the Paris Congress asking the assembled Powers to unite them into a single state and, in order to avoid disturbing rivalries in the country, to unite them under a prince belonging to a Western European dynasty. The problem, however, remained unsolved. Two years later, in 1858, the powers at the Paris Convention allowed a partial Union comprising the customs, mail, money system and identical army organization; each of the "United Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia" had to be

THE ROUMANIAN NATION AND

governed also in the future by its own assembly and by its own ruler, who had to be elected from among the Roumanians of the two countries.

Eluding the vexatory dispositions of the Convention the two principalities in January, 1859, (Moldavia on January 5th, Wallachia on January 24th) elected as Governing Prince the same man: the Moldavian colonel Alexander Ion Cuza.

The two principalities from now on are united and take the name of "**Roumania.**" The Turks, the Russians, the Austrians protested; but with the help of France and Italy, especially with the help of Napoleon the IIIrd, the Union has been recognized and on January 24th, 1861, in Bucharest met the first parliament of modern Roumania.

Alexander Ion Cuza (1859-1866) belongs undoubtedly to the greatest rulers of the Roumanian Nation. Although his reign lasted only seven years, it marks a new epoch in the development of Roumania. He followed the national program of 1848. His first important reform was the secularization of the estates and properties of the monasteries (1863) which were mostly dedicated to different Greek religious foundations in the Near East, to the "Holy Mountain" (Athos), to the Patriarchate of Constantinople or to the Holy Sepulcher, and consequently their income was of no use

THE ROUMANIAN KINGDOM

for the country. This was followed in 1864 by the great agrarian reform which gave to the exploited peasantry the necessary land to live on. Strongly opposed by the great landlords Prince Cuza enforced this reform by a coup d'etat dissolving the national assembly and submitting the electoral dispositions for a new parliament to a plebiscite. New civil and criminal laws, then a very important educational law, have been created in 1864-1865. Primary schools all over the country, secondary schools, two universities (in Bucharest and Jassy), art schools, conservatories have been erected, education has been made free for all degrees, and thus the national culture took a powerful development.

In 1866, mostly under the pressure of the elements discontented with his democratic agrarian law, Alexander Ion Cuza abdicated, and at the recommendation of Napoleon the IIIrd, the Roumanians by plebiscite elected to the Roumanian throne his relative, Prince Charles of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen (1866-1914).*

The new prince continued the great work of Cuza. Gifted with a greater tactfulness and with an extraordinarily clear vision, he suc-

*The Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen are the Southern branch of the Hohenzollerns. The two branches,—the Southern is Catholic, the Northern is Protestant,—were almost in open conflict with each other for over three centuries. The half-Latin Southern branch never approved of the Prussian methods of the Northern Hohenzollerns.

ceeded not only in appeasing the rivalrous passions inside the country, but also to make Roumania prosperous and respected by her great and greedy neighbors, the Russian and Austro-Hungarian Empires.

Besides continuing the reform of the administration, justice and finances, Prince Charles since the beginning of his rule laid great weight on the organization of the Army. This was of greatest importance in 1877, when the Russian-Turkish war broke out. The Russians after being defeated twice at Plevna in 1877 appealed to the Roumanian Army to cross the Danube, under any conditions the Roumanian Government wanted, and to help them because "the cause of Christianity was in danger." The Roumanian troops crossed the Danube and distinguished themselves in the great battles at Plevna, where the only victories until the end of November were those that had been won by Roumanian arms. The course of the war changed: Plevna fell, the Danube fortresses fell, the Russian troops crossed the Balkans and in February, 1878, the Turks were compelled to agree to the Treaty of San Stefano, dismembering their European territories.

After the war, although Russia bound herself solemnly to respect "the present territorial integrity of Roumania" which included also Southern Bessarabia, she took away for the second time the Roumanian territory between the Pruth and the Dniester and at the protests

THE ROUMANIAN KINGDOM

of Roumania she threatened to invade her with Cossack hordes unless the Roumanians agreed to this new Russian spoliation. The Berlin Congress, after Russia agreed to Great Britain having Cyprus, and Austria-Hungary having Bosnia and Hertzegovina, approved the Russian demands and in exchange for the loss of Bessarabia restored to Roumania her old province of Dobrogea, lost to the Turks at the beginning of the XVth century. It also recognized the independence of the country which three years later, in 1881, was raised to the rank of a kingdom.

But the way Russia treated Roumania as well as the Russian tendencies to drive over the body of Roumania toward Constantinople, forced this country to seek support in the group opposing Russian politics, and thus Roumania became affiliated with the Triple Alliance existing since 1887 between Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy. And whatever opinions may be expressed today, there is one truth: that the policy Roumania followed, favored greatly her development and strengthened her economical as well as her military power, thus making her capable to follow since 1912 her own absolutely independent policy in accordance with the aspirations of the Roumanian race.

In 1913 Roumania intervened in the Second Balkan War against Bulgaria, taking sides with Serbia and Greece and by the peace of Buch-

THE ROUMANIAN NATION AND

arrest she obtained a new and better defensible border line in the Döbrudja, turning from the Danube West of Turtucaia and reaching the Black Sea South of Bălcchik. The territory between the old frontier and this new line, comprising two departments; Durostor and Caliacra, is the so-called Quadrilater or New Dobrudja, which is to be distinguished from the Old or Roumanian Dobrudja reannexed from Turkey to Roumania in 1878.

At the beginning of the Great War, in October, 1914, King Charles died and the throne was ascended by his nephew, the present King, Ferdinand the Ist, or as the French call him, **Ferdinand the Loyal**, (1914—) under whose masterful leadership Roumania achieved her century old aspiration of uniting all Roumanians into one strong Roumanian State.

V. Progress of Modern Roumania.

In the last fifty years Roumania made an unparalleled progress. The population doubled. In 1859 its number was 3,865,000, in 1912 it amounted to 7,800,000, out of whom, as Roumania is an agricultural country, the rural population forms 82%. The sanitary conditions which at 1850 were pitiful, improved so greatly that the birth rate which in 1888 was of 220,000 has been raised to over 300,000 in 1913,

THE ROUMANIAN KINGDOM

thus placing Roumania among the countries with the highest natality.

The form of Government is that of a Constitutional Monarchy. The constitution is very liberal and democratic, having been framed after the Belgian. The dominating religion is the Greek-Oriental Christianity. There is, however, complete religious liberty in the country. The political and economical inequality that still existed was removed by the Constitutional Assembly in the Spring of 1917, which out of the 4 million hectares forming the propriety of the great landowners, of some institutions or of the State, expropriated and distributed to the peasantry over $2\frac{1}{2}$ million hectares, and also introduced universal suffrage for all Roumanian citizens. The Jewish problem, that has been so much emphasized in the last ten years by the American and English press and for which Roumania was so often criticized, also has been solved. Owing to the fact that at the beginning of the XIXth century there were no Jews in Roumania, that they immigrated mostly about and after 1840 from Russian Poland and Galicia, that they were forming even at the time of the national rebirth of Roumania a strong body of German or Yiddish speaking foreigners, better armed for the life than the Roumanian peasantry kept in subjection for centuries by the Turks and their favorite Phanariote boyards,—the Roumanian legislation in 1864 in order to protect

THE ROUMANIAN NATION AND

the national character of the country inserted in the Constitution the Article 7, which allowed only individual naturalization by an act of the Parliament. This article was applied to everybody, but as the majority of the immigrants were Jews it certainly affected more seriously their interests and thus a great part of the Jews inhabiting Roumania were not Roumanian citizens. In 1878 the Berlin Congress imposed upon Roumania to give citizenship to all her Jewish inhabitants. Roumania protested and refused to comply with this decision. All the more so as this decision has been taken at the insinuations of Germany, which wanted to extort by this threat a better price for the German built railroads in Roumania and especially as no decision of this kind has been imposed upon the neighboring Russian Empire. To give full citizenship to all Jews immigrated into Roumania while in Russia these rights to the Jews were denied, would have meant to invite the millions of Russian and Polish Jews into Roumania and to compromise the national life of the country. In relation to the United States one has always to remember that Roumania never needed immigrants to colonize its lands. Pogroms never happened in Roumania and all news of this kind are only senseless untruths. The very fact that year after year new waves of Jews immigrated into Roumania proves that they were living better here than in other countries. In 1914 their number in the

THE ROUMANIAN KINGDOM

Roumanian Kingdom was something over 300,000. By the Union of all Roumanian territories into one state their situation in Roumania has changed entirely. In the future they cannot constitute any more danger for the Roumanian nation. According to the law of May 22nd, 1919, all the Jews born in the territory of the Old Kingdom of Roumania become Roumanian citizens by simply making a declaration that they were born in Roumania and that they never enjoyed a foreign protection. The future welfare of the Jews in Roumania from now on will depend on the part they will take in the country's national aspirations as well as in its economical and social development, and to be frank, it also will be influenced by the hostile or friendly attitude that their Jewish kinsmen abroad will have toward Roumania.

Besides the social reorganization of the country a great weight has been laid on the education. In 1850 there were only a few schools on the Roumanian soil. In 1885 there were 2,957 primary schools with 135,250 pupils; in 1915 there were 5,380 primary schools with 705,000 pupils. The same happened with the High School and University education. There were in 1908 in Roumania 179 High Schools (Lyceums) with 25,900 pupils. The University education (2 universities, 1 superior veterinarian school, 1 academy of commerce, etc.) counts 500 professors with 7,000 students. Besides

THE ROUMANIAN NATION AND

these institutions of state there are 500 private schools with 2,289 professors and 35,500 pupils.

The Roumanian Universities are the foremost centers of science in Eastern Europe. Scientists as Dr. Toma Ionesco, Dr. A. Marinesco, Dr. V. Babesh, the great bacteriologist, or historians as N. Xenopol and N. Iorga are known today all over the world.

Roumania being a country abundantly endowed with natural riches, her economical life raised with an unparalleled rapidity, railroads have been built, waterways, especially the harbors on the Danube, have been improved and powerful lines of river navigation have been established. Constantza in 1878 was only a poor Turkish fisher village. Today it is a large, flourishing city and after Odessa the most important harbor of the Black Sea with the most modern accommodations for oil and cereal transports.

A few figures will give some idea as to the economical progress of Roumania:

Agriculture:

In 1866	457,608 tons
In 1913	3,230,235 tons

Petroleum:

In 1866 an output of.....	5,915 tons
In 1912 an output of.....	2,000,000 tons

Industry:

In 1866 not a single factory.

THE ROUMANIAN KINGDOM

In 1912 over 900 factories with a production of 500,000,000 francs.

Imports:

In 1880, 311,000 tons, worth 225,000,000 francs

In 1911, 771,000 tons, worth 410,000,000 francs

Exports:

In 1880, 1,324,000 tons, worth 210,000,000 francs.

In 1911, 4,490,000 tons, worth 616,000,000 francs.

Railroads:

In 1864 not a single yard.

In 1873..... 403 miles with 1,765 cars

In 1911..... 2,175 miles with 18,676 cars

Income of Railroads:

In 1873..... 9,000,000 francs

In 1911..... 124,000,000 francs

Budget:

In 1867..... 56,000,000 francs

In 1912..... 500,000,000 francs

Excedents of the Roumanian Budget:

In 1901-02 21,217,189 francs

In 1906-07 52,920,424 francs

In 1911-12 110,391,665 francs

In 1915-16 200,000,000 francs

Budgetary income in 1911:

Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro and

- ~~and~~ Greece together 450,000,000 francs

Roumania alone 583,000,000 francs

THE ROUMANIAN NATION AND

Foreign trade in 1911:

Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro and

Greece together852,000,000 francs

Roumania alone1,026,000,000 francs

The public debt of Roumania in 1914 amounted to 1,718,000 francs, which in proportion with her income places Roumania among the countries with the most favorable financial situation of Europe.

VI. Roumania's War.

The Roumanian Kingdom previous to 1914 had to be for Roumania of today what Piedmont was for Italy. Its national mission was to unite under the same rule all territories inhabited by the Roumanian race: Transylvania, the Banat and Bucovina which were oppressed by Austria-Hungary, as well as Bessarabia which was under Russian yoke. The war imposed by the Central Powers upon the world decided Roumania's attitude; the total destruction of the Serbians would have meant the immediate slavery of the other smaller nations of South-Eastern Europe, and consequently the total slavery of the Roumanian race. From the very beginning public opinion and Government in Roumania were decided for war on the side of the Western Allies against Austria-Hungary, in order to free Transylvania, the

THE ROUMANIAN KINGDOM

Banat and Bucovina. So much so that one of the former ministers, late N. Filipesco, head of the Conservative Party, declared that he "preferred to see Roumania crushed on the side of France than victorious on the side of Germany." She could not enter the great whirlpool in 1914 because of great political and military reasons. Roumania had to rely for immediate help only on her Russian neighbor. She knew since 1878 (the case of Bessarabia), that also for Russia treaties are only "scraps of paper," and she had little confidence in the Russian military organization. Besides Roumania's military preparation was not completed for the new modern warfare. It was lacking in artillery and machine guns.

However, the military situations, especially on the Western front, impelled Roumania to enter the war before she could be sufficiently prepared. In June, 1916, on the Eastern front, the offensive forces of the Russians had been definitely curbed. The Germans had everywhere the upper hand and a great German army was concentrating in the direction of Kovel, decidedly to break the weak Russian lines and to march upon Moscow. On the Western front the terrific battle of Verdun was at its climax, the great fortresses fell one after another, and the German forces were standing before the last French line of defense at Fort Fleury. The German pressure was so enormous that all political and military circles of

THE ROUMANIAN NATION AND

the Allies were afraid that the front would break with tragical consequences. It was amidst these events that on July 6th, 1916, the Allied Powers through the French Military Attache, Major Pichon, delivered to Roumania an ultimatum: either to enter immediately the war on their side, or to renounce forever her century-old ideal of uniting all the Roumanians. The fate of Roumania was decided. On August 16th a Treaty of Alliance had been concluded with France, Great Britain, Russia and Italy—Russia being at the same time the spokesman of Serbia—by which treaty it had been defined that all Roumanian territories of Austria-Hungary, including the whole of the Banat between the Muresh, Tisa and Danube Rivers, would be united with the Roumanian Kingdom. At the same time a Military Convention was signed by which the Allies pledged themselves to provide the Roumanian Army with all necessary military equipment, ammunition, machine guns and heavy artillery, to send the necessary reserve forces and, eight days before Roumania's entrance into the war, to start a powerful offensive at Salonica and in Galicia, in order to facilitate for the Roumanian Army the crossing of the Carpathians and the shortening of its front in Transylvania. On August 27th, 1917, Roumania entered the war against Austria-Hungary and the Teuton allies, and the Roumanian forces crossed the Carpathians;

THE ROUMANIAN KINGDOM

opened the mountain passes for the Russian troops concentrated in Bucovina and Galicia, and drove with great rapidity into the center of Transylvania. But Allied help, in spite of the Military Convention, failed entirely. The Allied Army under General Sarraill at Salonica was unable to move forward on account of malaria and its insignificant number which enabled the German commander, General Mackensen, to concentrate a powerful army on Roumania's Southern frontier, to push into the Dobrudja and later even to cross the Danube. The Russian Army under General Brusiloff in Galicia remained entirely inactive, as the whole Russian front in Volhynia and the Baltic Countries, which enabled the other great German commander, General Falkenhayn, to take considerable forces from that front and to concentrate them against the Roumanians. Eight special German shock troop divisions have been brought into Transylvania from the Western front, especially from Verdun and the Somme River, by which the dangerous situation of the Allies on that front had been definitely relieved. The heavy artillery promised by the Allies was withheld in Russia, the Roumanian machine guns sent from France by way of Archangel were installed by Minister Protopopoff on the house roofs of Petrograd to crush the Revolution—and immediately after their entrance into the battles the Roumanian troops were left alone to face the

THE ROUMANIAN NATION AND

two great German armies. The Russians only sent two divisions into the Dobrudja, which both were composed of weak and poor fighters, commanded by a much weaker staff of officers. Thus the Roumanian forces had to protect alone all the borders of the country. They numbered 23 divisions on a front of 800 miles. The front in France from the channel to Switzerland was only 430 miles long—and was defended by four and one-half millions of fighters provided with the best modern weapons. The Central Powers concentrated against the Roumanians 38 divisions, and in December 1916 they brought 5 more, the number of their divisions at the end of the year amounting to 43.

In face of the overwhelming power of the enemy, the Roumanian troops retreated at the beginning of October to the Carpathians, where they fought desperately for two more months, defending the mountain passes leading into Roumania. Unfortunately, there were no more reserves; the same troops were fighting for 50-60 days incessantly in the first lines. Some divisions were reduced even to 5,000 men. On the Jiul River the Eleventh Roumanian Division had to fight for two weeks against three German divisions, out of which the Eleventh Bavarian Division had been entirely annihilated or captured.

Attacked from the South, West and North by superior forces with a perfect war ma-

THE ROUMANIAN KINGDOM

chinery, the Roumanian troops after a desperate struggle had to yield to the circumstances and in order to shorten the front, the First Roumanian Army, at the middle of November, after it won under the heroic General Dragalina (who died on the battlefield) the great victory on the Jiul, began to retreat toward the East, leaving Western Roumania in the hands of the enemy.

The retreat was a continuous series of violent counter-attacks. Before Bucharest, on the Argesh River, the Roumanian forces at the beginning of December, 1916, gave once more a desperate battle to stop the foe and to save the capital. All available man power, even the military schools, were in the first lines. The battle was won, when on the left wing the enemy with great losses succeeded in breaking the lines of a Roumanian division. Lacking wholly Roumanian reserves, the Roumanian command appealed to the Russian divisions, which began to arrive in order to protect the Roumanian retreat, and summoned them to replace the shattered Roumanian division. The Russian commanding general refused to take part in the battle, because "he had received orders from his General Staff to direct his troops toward the North." The battle was lost, Bucharest fell, and the Roumanian troops had to retreat further East to the Sereth River, where in January, 1917, with the help of new Russian troops they succeeded in stopping the

THE ROUMANIAN NATION AND

Teuton drive. And Commissioner Polivanov reported immediately to his government in Petrograd that the tragical reverse of Roumania is not at all in contradiction with the plans and interests of the Russian Empire.*

At the beginning of January, 1917, the whole Roumanian Army was in Moldavia; there was besides the Moldavian population also an enormous number of refugees from Wallachia, and more than one million of Russian troops were arriving from Russia, well provided with arms and ammunition, but without the necessary food supply. In less than two months all Roumanian supply stores were emptied. And then whole villages and towns fell victims to famine and epidemics, especially to the terrific spotted typhus fever.

It was amidst these difficulties, that the Roumanian General Staff under General Presan and the French Military Mission of General Berthelot undertook the reorganization of the Roumanian Army. In June, 1917, this Army, reduced to 15 divisions, but better equipped and better instructed than in August, 1916, was ready for the expected offensive of revenge. The two Roumanian Armies and the group of reserves were preparing for the great battle that had to come.

*Published by the Bolshevik Government; printed also in "Roumania's Sacrifice" by G. Negulesco, Century Co., New York, 1918.

THE ROUMANIAN KINGDOM

Unfortunately, the Russian power was waning. After the overthrow of the Czar in March 1917, the Russian troops, in spite of the sounding messages from Petrograd, lost every spirit of discipline. Their revolutionary committees were even recommending the fraternizing with the enemy. The Russian High Command became more powerless every day. Out of the four Russian armies (together 1,200,000 troops) fighting at the right and left flanks of the Roumanians, there was but one seemingly willing to fight.

At the end of July, 1917, the Second Roumanian Army under General Averesco started with a great success the long expected offensive. In two days the enemy lines were broken on a front of 20 miles and the Roumanian troops were sweeping forward victoriously. The first Roumanian Army was joining in, when the Russian Armies refused to advance. An order came from Prime Minister Kerensky to the Russian commander, General Shtcherbatchoff, to stop any offensive movement of the Russian forces and to direct the reliable VIIIth Army to the front of Bucovina and Galicia, where the troops of General Korniloff were leaving the battlefield and retreating with music. Roumanian regiments had now to take over also the front of the VIIIth Russian Army. The Germans, well informed, concentrated in the important points of junction at Marasheshi and Oituz a great number of fresh

THE ROUMANIAN NATION AND

shock troops and on August 2nd started a series of terrific attacks against the Russian-Roumanian lines, with the purpose of breaking through and advancing upon Odessa. The Russian troops ceded everywhere and were replaced immediately by Roumanians. After the third day of the German offensive there were on the front only Roumanian troops which not only defended their lines desperately, but even succeeded in recapturing a part of the defenses lost by the Russians. The bravery of the Roumanian peasant-fighters was stirred to its climax by the presence in the trenches of King Ferdinand, who during these days was sharing with his soldiers all the dangers of the fearful struggle.

After three weeks of useless bleeding, the Teuton avalanche was definitely curbed. It cost ten German and several Austro-Hungarian divisions. It was the first time that the "great front breaker," General Mackensen, was defeated.

But no power could stop the dissolution of the Russian Army. In October, 1917, the Kerensky Government was overthrown. The Bolsheviki Lenine and Trotzky, who took his place, decided to make peace at any price with the enemy and were carrying on among their own troops the most unscrupulous propaganda for peace, socialism and disobedience. A great number of Russian officers were killed by their own troops and whole divisions left the

THE ROUMANIAN KINGDOM

trenches and started on their way home. Vainly the Allies with the Roumanian and Russian Commands tried to organize a Ukrainian army to still maintain the front north of the Roumanian forces; all troops of the Russian Empire were poisoned by the Bolshevik disease and no unit was willing to continue the fight. Amidst all these circumstances, the Roumanian troops remained unshakable in their discipline. Everywhere they took over the Russian trenches and repulsed obstinately the attacks of the enemy. At the beginning of December they were holding a front of over 350 miles.

Then the Bolshevik Government declared war upon Roumania and ordered the half disbanded Russian troops to arrest the Roumanian King, the Roumanian government and the Roumanian generals, as they were considered the greatest obstacles to the peace on the Eastern front, and to establish also in Roumania a Soviet Republic.

Immediately over one million Russians began to shell the cities of Faltitcheni, Dorohoi, Galatzi and to attack the Roumanian troops from the rear. It was necessary to take several Roumanian divisions from the front, where they were facing the Germans and Hungarians, and to drive the plundering Russians out of the country. As meanwhile Bessarabia in November became the independent "Moldavian Republic of Bessarabia" and was a vic-

THE ROUMANIAN NATION AND

tim to the same devastations as Roumania, at the call of the Bessarabian Diet Roumanian troops, headed by an Allied general, passed the Pruth River and with the help of improvised local forces cleared up the unfortunate country of all pillaging Russian soldier bands.

However, an armistice was signed for the whole of the Eastern front. Then, in January and February, 1918, the German and Austro-Hungarian armies advanced North of the Roumanian front upon Kiev, then South upon Odessa and at the end of February Roumania was surrounded from every side. Without any help from any of the Allies, without ammunition and medical supplies, without a Korfu where to retreat as Serbia did—the Allied command saw that a further resistance was impossible. After a repeated German ultimatum, sent by General Mackensen, the Roumanian Government was forced to agree to the painful Bucharest Treaty of March 27th, that will go down into history as one of the most fearful treaties ever imposed by a nation upon another.

The terms of this treaty had to enslave forever the national life of Roumania. Besides losing a sixth of her territory, as well as any outlet to the sea, she had to hand over to Germany and Austria-Hungary all the Roumanian oil fields, forests, fisheries, factories, banks, railroads, telegraphs, telephones, mail and mines, which all had to be entirely or partially under German or Austro-Hungarian control;

THE ROUMANIAN KINGDOM

she had to pay over five billion francs as indemnities and contributions to the Central Powers; she had to submit all her exports and imports to Teuton dispositions, to amnestiate all the slackers, spies and traitors who helped the German invasion, and to admit and promote German colonization on her territory.

These heavy conditions raised a deep hatred in the Roumanian people against Germany and her associates. King Ferdinand refused to put his signature to such a treaty and with a group of faithful retreated to the Bicz Castle in the Carpathians, awaiting the great Allied victory of which he never had any doubt.

A slight consolation was the patriotic decision of Bessarabia, which after 106 years of slavery under Russian yoke, by a unanimous vote of her National Assembly on April 9th united again with Roumania. The Roumanian forces also were able to keep their arms until the turn of events facilitated again their entry into the fighting ranks.

But the losses Roumania endured were enormous. Out of an army of 700,000 fighters she lost 327,000 dead, besides a great number of wounded and mutilated. About the same is the number of the losses out of the civilian population on account of epidemics and starvation. As the total population of Roumania previous to the war was about 8,000,000 souls, she lost almost a tenth of her inhabitants; the United States would lose proportionately 11,-

THE ROUMANIAN NATION AND

000,000 people. And who could estimate the value of the destroyed bridges, railroads, dismantled factories, or of the rich Roumanian oil wells and oil refineries.

However, the day of reckoning arrived. In October, 1918, the Teuton-Hungarian forces were crushed on the French and Italian fronts as well as in the Balkans. The Allied Armies of Salonica, under General Franchet d'Esperey, approached the Danube, Austria-Hungary turned into a turmoil of national revolutions, the once proud Austro-Hungarian Army was disbanded and the Roumanians of Transylvania, Banat and Bucovina took the power over their country in their own hands. On November 5th Roumania entered again the war and in one week's time the famous Mackensen Army was swept away from Roumania, while its remnants were captured by the newly organized troops of the Transylvanian Roumanians.

On November 28th Bucovina joined again Roumania and on December 1st the Union with Roumania was unanimously voted also by the Great National Assembly of Transylvania and the Banat. The armies of the Roumanian Kingdom crossed again the Carpathians and together with the forces of the redeemed provinces after a few battles with Hungarian troops and several diplomatic difficulties, occupied in former Austria-Hungary all territories inhabited by Roumanians, with the exception

THE ROUMANIAN KINGDOM

of the Western part of Banat, which has been occupied temporarily by the Serbians.

Thus the great ideal of Union for which the Roumanians struggled incessantly all through the past centuries, has been definitely achieved.

The overthrow of tyrannies has brought justice to the oppressed. The collapse of Russia freed Bessarabia, while the defeat of Austria-Hungary freed Transylvania, the Banat and Bucovina. The Roumanian lands are at present united into one Roumanian State from the Dniester to the Tisa, comprising 122,000 square miles with about 16,000,000 inhabitants who all with very few exceptions are of the same Latin race, speak the same language, have the same creed and aspirations. On account of her enormous natural wealth and her intelligent Neo-Latin inhabitants, United Roumania very shortly will be the most prosperous and most powerful country of South-Eastern Europe.

Numbers III. and IV. of our Series will be "Bessarabia" and "Dobrogea". Both studies have been prepared for us by Mr. N. H. Lahovary, to whom we are under deepest obligation for this help and courtesy.—V. S.

14 DAY USE
RETURN TO DESK FROM WHICH BORROWED
LOAN DEPT.

RENEWALS ONLY—TEL. NO. 642-3405

This book is due on the last date stamped below, or
on the date to which renewed.

Renewed books are subject to immediate recall.

NOV 28 1969

REC'D LD

NOV 14 '69 - 10 PM

LD21A-60m-6,'69
(J9096s10)476-A-32

General Library
University of California
Berkeley

Photomount
Pamphlet
Binder
Gaylord Bros.
Makers
Syracuse, N. Y.
PAT. JAN 21, 1908

YB 46315

571921

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARY

